



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At Webinar, Members of Congress and Business Leaders Discuss How Increased Trade Between Turkey and the US Can Strengthen Relations Between Both Countries

Washington DC (September 18, 2020) - A webinar sponsored by the Turkey US Business Council, an independent business council dedicated to increasing trade ties between the United States and Turkey, brought together Members of Congress and business leaders on both sides of the Atlantic to discuss opportunities to strengthen the economic relationship between the NATO allies.

Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA) both offered remarks at the Thursday event, highlighting that increased trade between Turkey and the United States can strengthen relations between the two countries. Congressman Chabot is co-chair of the Caucus on US Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans.

Also speaking at the event were Robert Bensch, CEO of Louisiana LNG Exports; Larry Kibler, CEO of H2 Brands; and Hasan Pehlivan, GM of VitrA Tiles. Topics included partnership between Turkey and the United States in the liquified natural gas sector and opportunities for US companies to integrate Turkish firms into their supply chains. Former United States Senator David Vitter served as the webinar's moderator.

"I am grateful to Congressman Chabot, Congressman Higgins and all the participants in today's webinar for giving voice to the possibilities that exist between our two economies," **said Mehmet Ali Yalcindag, Chairman of TAIK**. "TAIK's mission is to advance trade relations between the United States and Turkey and events like this webinar help us identify the real opportunities that can help us achieve that goal. The fact that we are the oldest business council in Turkey speaks to the priority that our commercial sectors have always placed on building ties with our friends in the United States."

"Thank you TAIK for inviting me to join the discussion about advancing the U.S.-Turkey trade relationship. With goodwill from both sides, Turkey is now poised to become a major destination for U.S. energy exports and an alternative to China for U.S. supply chains. Beyond these immediate opportunities, an expanding trade partnership will open new markets for American small businesses to export to Turkey and create jobs here at home. I look forward to continuing to find areas of common ground with Turkey, and trade ought to be one of them," **said Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH)**, Co-Chair of the Caucus on US Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans.

"Turkey has emerged as a prominent export market for American LNG. We support these efforts to supply cleaner, more efficient fuel sources globally, and we support the United States' growing partnership with Turkey. This is a win for both of our countries," **said Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA)**.

About TAIK

The Turkey-U.S. Business Council (TAİK) is Turkey's oldest business council. Established in 1985, TAİK's mission is to enhance trade and investment relations between Turkey and the United States. TAİK operates under the umbrella of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK). TAİK has a clear mission: to bolster trade and economic relations between Turkey and the United States. TAİK works with American and Turkish companies to bolster their strategic partnerships, and to promote Turkey's strengths as a destination for American investment. TAİK is mandated to:

- Encourage business development and industrial cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey;
- Improve the conditions for bilateral trade, foreign direct investment and joint investments in other countries;
- Identify opportunities in key sectors for U.S. states and cities where opportunities exist for mutually beneficial business development;
- Promote Turkey's key business sectors in the U.S. and leading role in the region, enhancing awareness about the advantages of doing business with Turkey;
- Provide detailed analysis on bilateral trade, investment, industrial and technological cooperation.

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